



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 600

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Natural Gas Rates To Change For AmerenUE Customers**

JEFFERSON CITY—To primarily reflect estimated changes in the wholesale cost of natural gas for the upcoming winter heating season, AmerenUE natural gas customers in the former Aquila, Inc. Eastern System service area (including the city of Rolla) will experience an increase in natural gas rates under a filing which takes effect on November 1, 2005. This increase is interim subject to refund.

A residential customer paid approximately \$1.21 per Ccf (per 100 cubic feet of gas) during the winter of 2004-2005. Under this filing, the rate will increase to approximately \$1.40 per Ccf (per 100 cubic feet of gas), an increase of approximately \$0.19 cents per Ccf. Last winter, a residential customer using 640 Ccf had a bill of \$962; if weather is normal this year, that same customer would use approximately 711 Ccf for a bill of approximately \$1,198, before taxes. This represents an increase of approximately 25%. These numbers reflect more usage as well as a higher unit price of natural gas projected for this winter versus last winter.

Current natural gas market prices are at record levels for this time of the year based upon a number of factors including recent hurricanes, above average summer temperatures resulting in increased demand for natural gas-fired generators to serve air-conditioning load and high crude oil prices.

Approximately 65% to 80% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. **The wholesale cost of natural gas** (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its suppliers for natural gas) **is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.** The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply, demand and the weather. The Missouri Public Service Commission does conduct an annual regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

AmerenUE serves approximately 4,300 natural gas customers in the former service area of Aquila, Inc.'s Eastern System in Phelps County.